eighth
by kawachi izumi

the eighth team
@Japanzai

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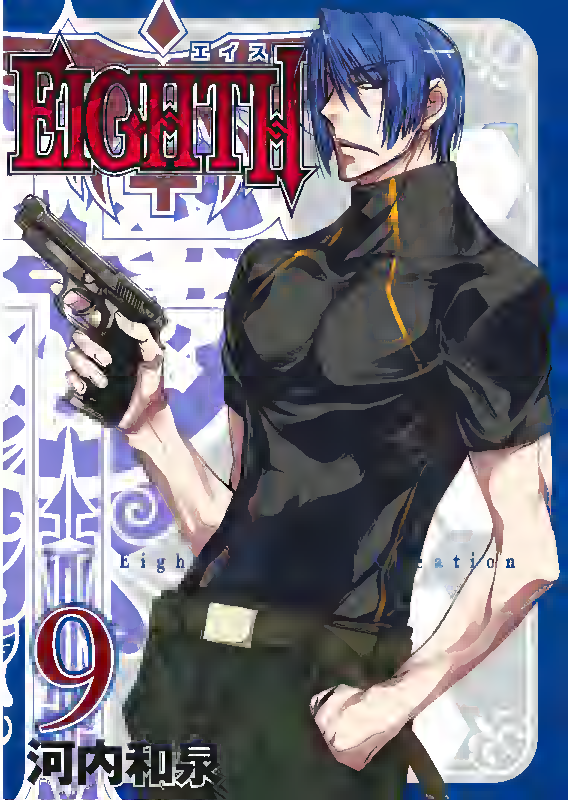
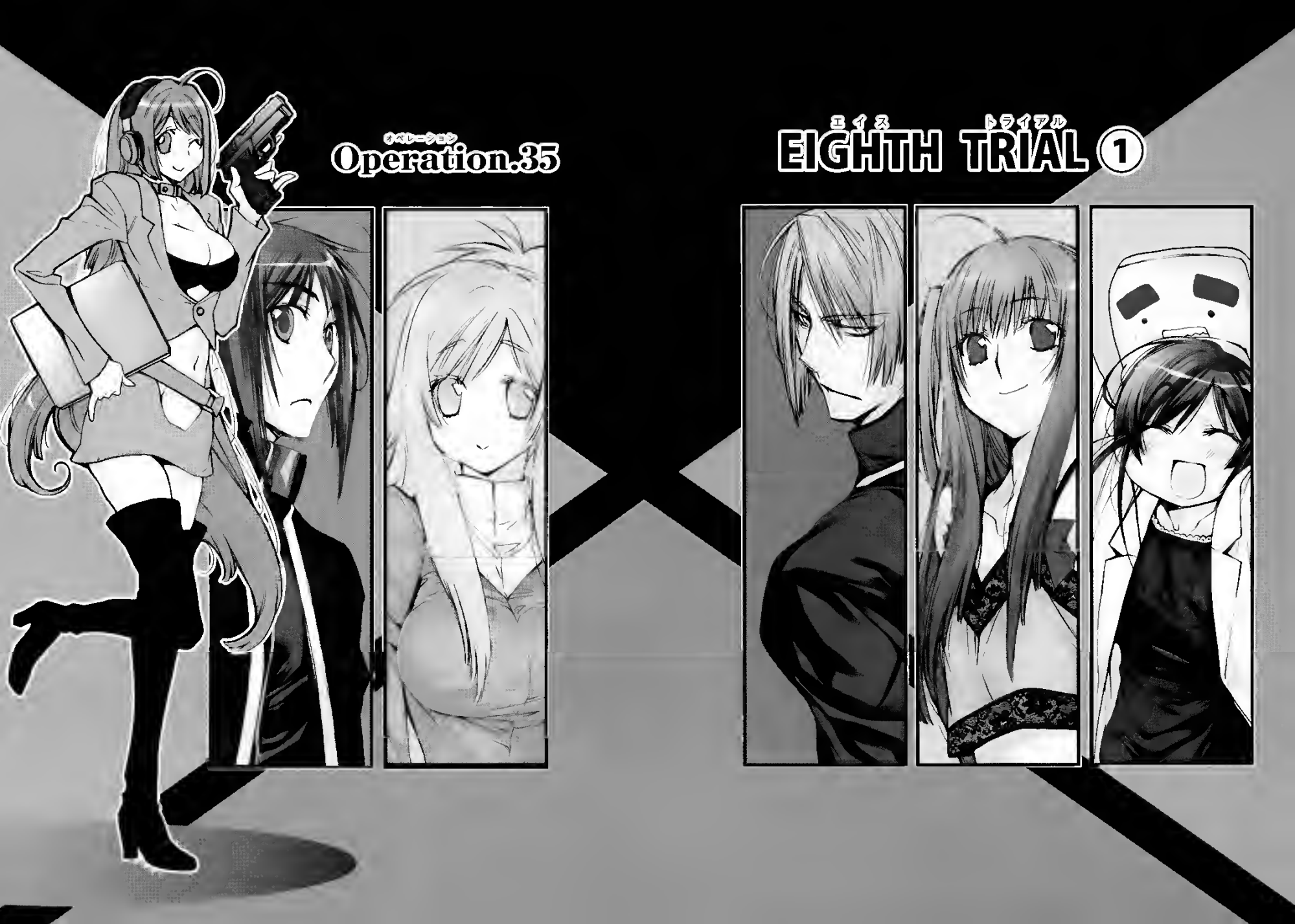
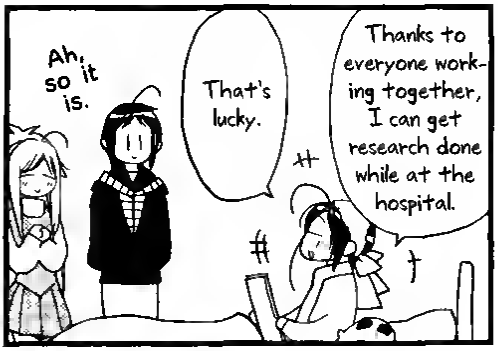
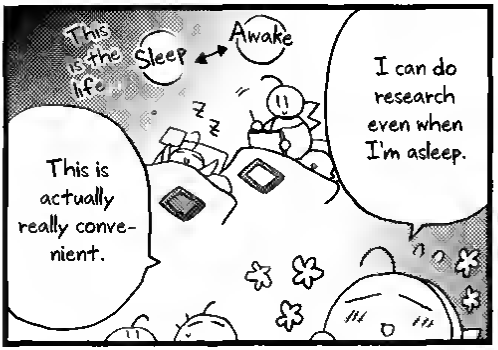


...They get along with each other?
YES. THAT'S WHY, TO PUT IT SIMPLY---
BE IT RIO TENNOUJI OR CELCIA, NO MATTER WHICH ONE WE LAY OUR HANDS ON,
THE OTHER ONE WILL HELP ASTORIA, EVEN AGAINST THEIR WILL.
REGARD-LESS...
A YOUNG CHILD AND A TIMID HOLY WOMAN WILL BE A CINCH.
YOUR DECISION?


Operation.35
オペレーション
EIGHTH TRIAL ①
エイス
トライアル

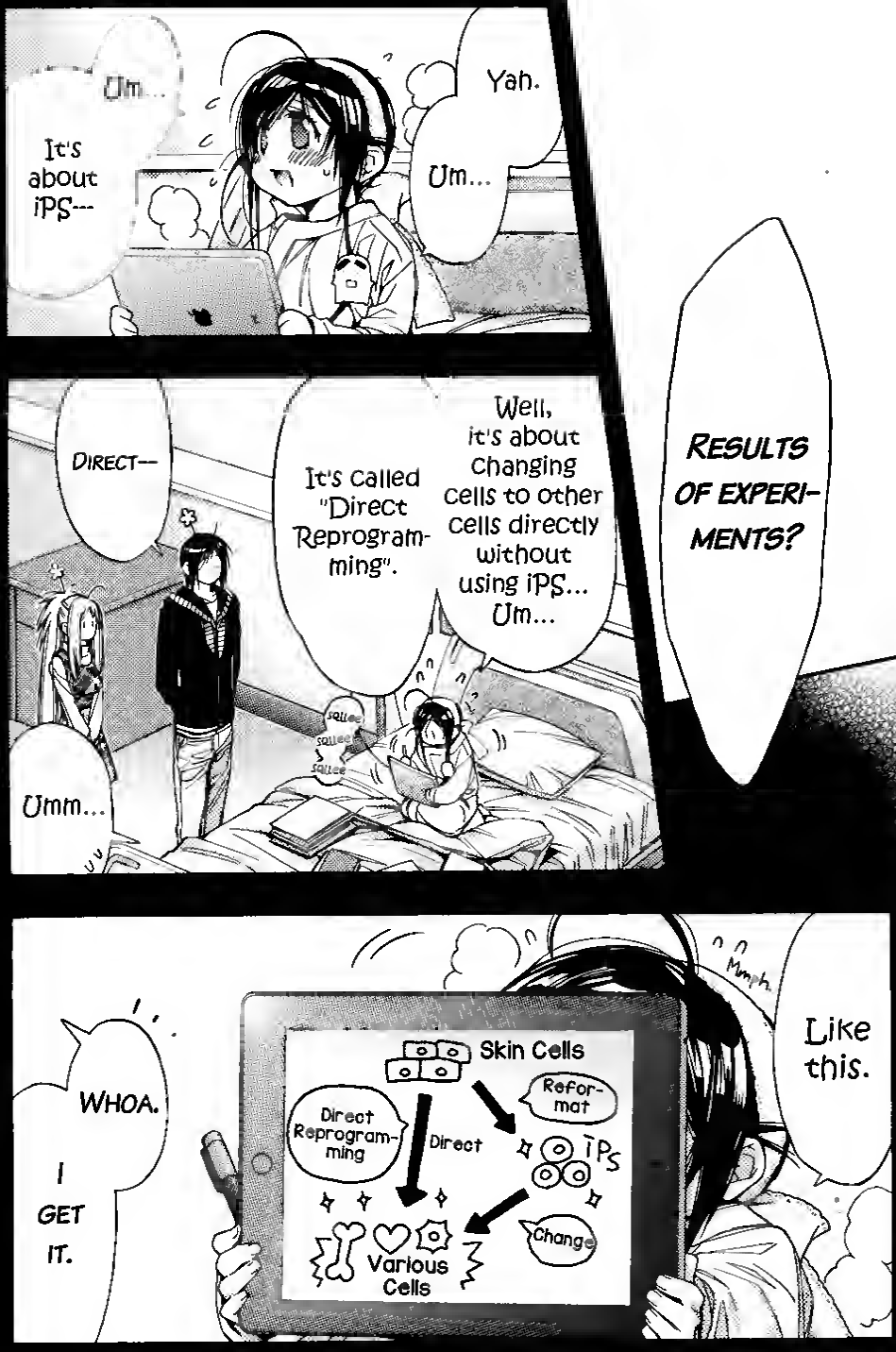
Eighth Yurufuwa Theater

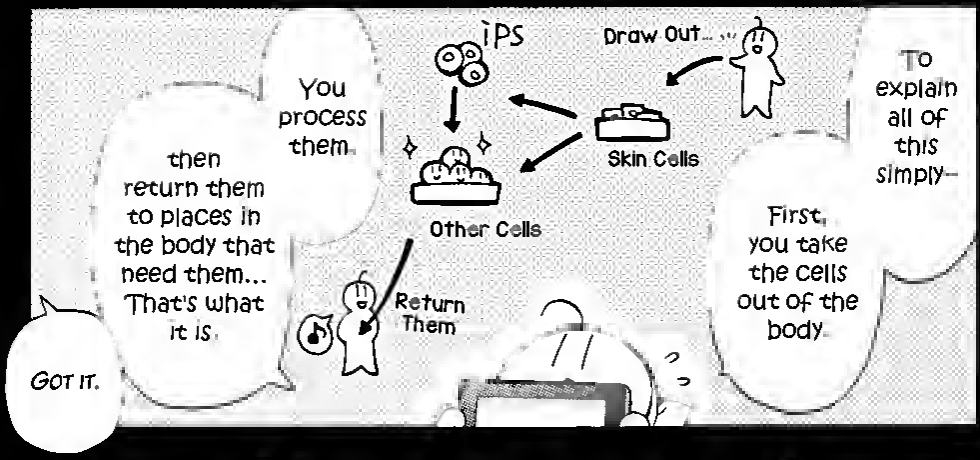




Was it just a dream?
Suddenly rising
Oh, right That experiment
The problem is that the experiments I do in my dreams get mixed in, and...
We take that for granted!
Of course, it's always like that for me!

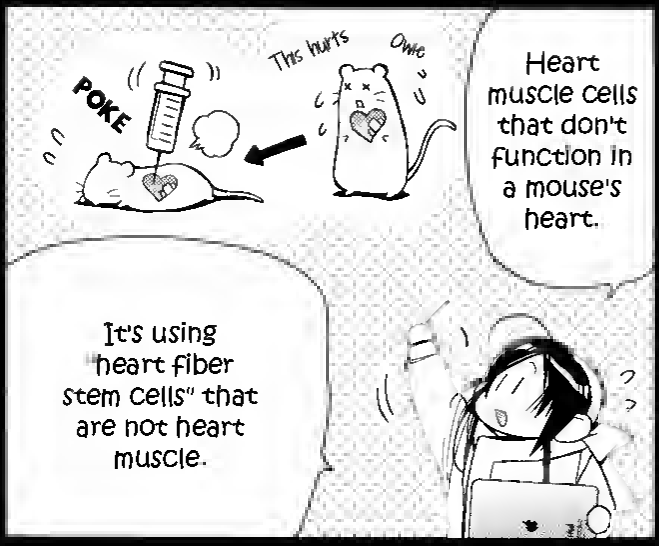
……


Um...
It's about iPS---
Yah.
Um...
DIRECT--
It's called "Direct Reprogramming".
Well, it's about changing cells to other cells directly without using iPS... Um...
Umm...
RESULTS OF EXPERIMENTS?
WHOA.
I GET IT.
Skin Cells
Direct Reprogramming
Direct
Reformat
iPS
Change
Various Cells
Like this.

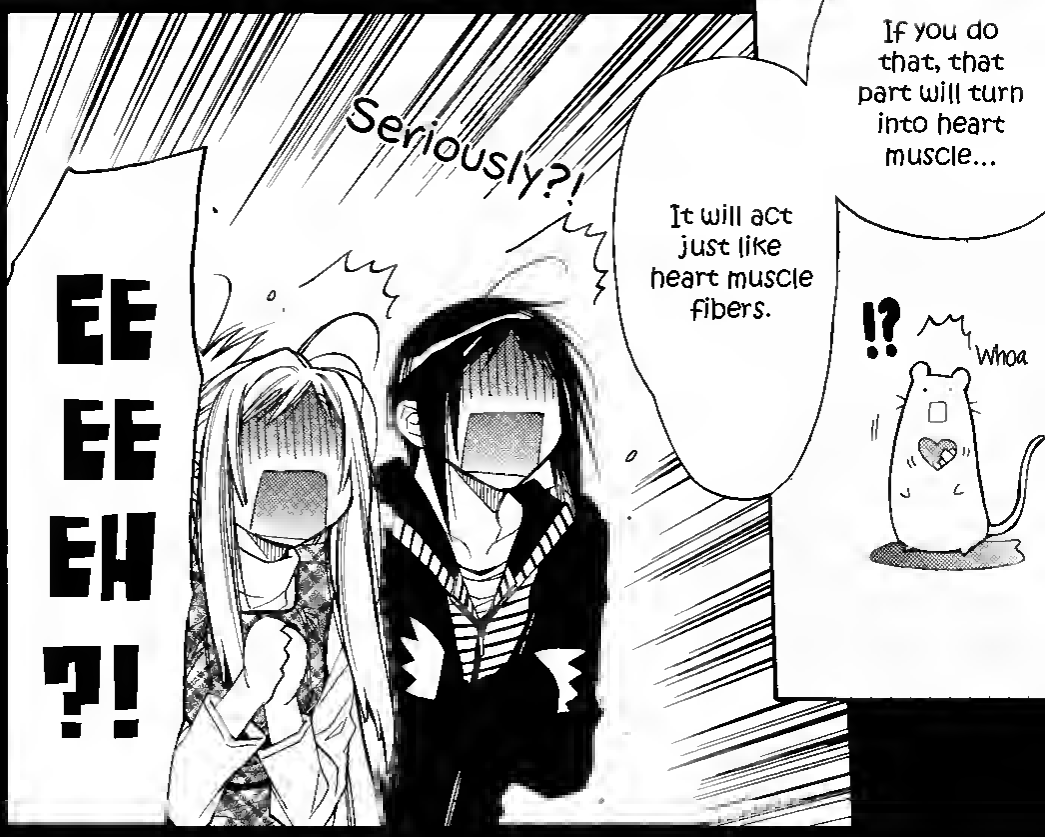

To explain all of this simply--
First, you take the cells out of the body
iPS
Draw Out...
Skin Cells
Other Cells
Return Them
You process them
then return them to places in the body that need them... That's what it is.
GOT IT.

Still, don't you think there are some areas where there is trouble?
Mmm...
WELL...
TAKING THEM OUT AND PUTTING THEM IN IS DIFFICULT, RIGHT?

Yah, it's just as you say. On that matter, I concluded:
Wouldn't it be better if we could convert the cells directly, within the body?
WHAT?!


POKE
This hurts
Owie
Heart muscle cells that don't function in a mouse's heart.
It's using "heart fiber stem cells" that are not heart muscle.

It's mouse testing.
SQUEAK


If you do that, that part will turn into heart muscle...
!?
Whoa
It will act just like heart muscle fibers.
Seriously?!
EE EE EH ?!

YOU'RE TURNING THE PART THAT ISN'T MUSCLE INTO MUSCLE?!
Yah.
The heart is more or less 30% heart muscle cells.
The remaining 70% consists of fiber stem cells. And with this, they take on the neces sary function.
This is better than the heart stopping, huh?
WELL, YEAH...
CONVERTING JUST A PART OF IT IS OKAY.
As part of the heart, it assimilates easily.
Well, since it isn't cut out and put back in, that's a given.
You can introduce genes to transform a variety of cells, and they will live on.

Um...
Doing it this way leaves out all of the trouble of taking out and putting in the cells.
The time can be shortened immensely.
The time it takes to create iPS is rapidly shortening,
Ehe...
and the fewer steps there are in the process, the fewer possible errors exist.
So a simple method like this will make it easier to use it faster on-site.

It can be done not just with the heart, but many other organs as well.
But this is just basic research. There are still clinical trials to do.
If we don't hurry up and turn a profit, Chief-san will get mad.
THAT'S JUST...
And even with universities, there's research that's considered useless----
.....
She's so demanding...
CHIEF IS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
Still, Eighth is not a university, but a corporation.
...Yah.

It's not like that. Me coming to Eighth was...
Eighth has a strong ability to create finished products of biological research.
If it isn't finished properly, it can't be used in the field.
But it's important for universities to keep up with their research.
I also spoke with many other professors from a number of universities.
As a child, I'm a rarity, and there are many professors who find me interesting.
Chief-san invited me to Eighth
partly because he needed my connections with so many researchers.
I'm not the only one he recognizes.

Chief-san sees me as a juncture.
He is looking at the research of others
Mine by itself isn't enough.
THAT MAY BE THE CASE, BUT...
CHIEF IS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
RIO...

RIO IS IMPORTANT ALL BY HERSELF.
AS A RESEARCHER, I THINK YOU'RE AMAZING.
BUT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.
—I KNOW THE CHIEF QUITE WELL.
HE LIKES YOU, WITHOUT A DOUBT.
I HOLD YOU IN HIGH ESTEEM.
...AND OF COURSE, SO DO I.
...Oh.
Oh.
No, well...
Wh
oaaa:
No, no, that's ...
Um ...
Umm...

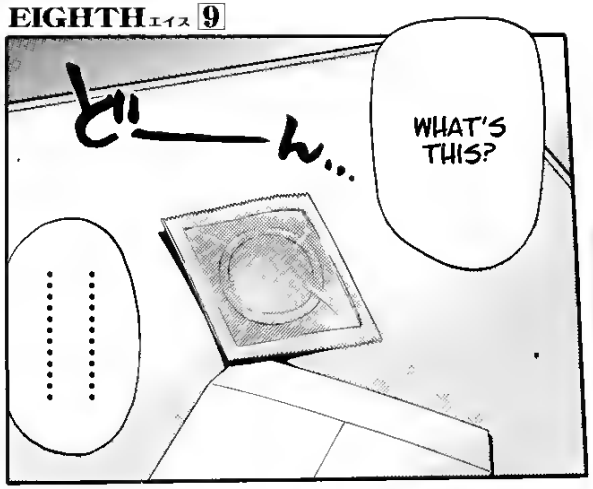
I...
I'm really just thinking too much
Ah.
Um...
I think Naoya-oni-san is amazing...
too...
...YOU DO?
Yah.
Wow, I'm amazing...!
Yah, really.
UM...
HEY... RIO-SAN.

Yah.
What is it, Onee-san?
About Naoya... I wanted to ask you, Rio-san, to...
!.....
CELCIA.
.....?
HEY, RIO.
AW, IT'S FINE.
BUT DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD.
Whoaaa!
I'm greedy!!
Hehehe~
BECAUSE YOU'RE A GREEDY ONE!
THAT'S IT.
YOU SHOULD RECOVER FROM YOUR ILLNESS AND BUSY YOURSELF WITH YOUR OWN RESEARCH

YOU CAN CALL US ANY TIME.
.....
...I MIGHT JUST BE IN THE WAY...

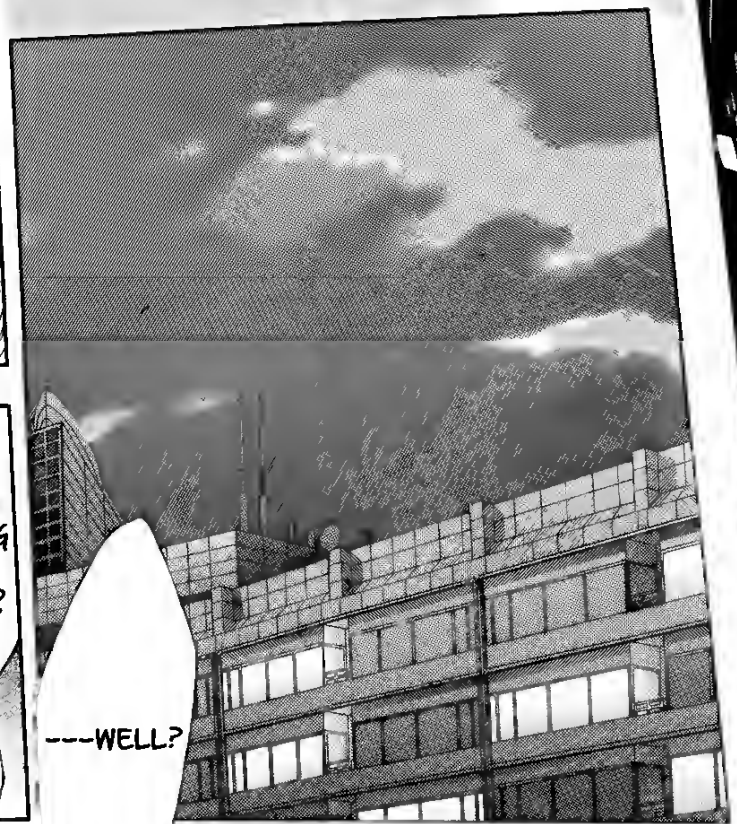
WITH MY POWER, I COULO BE USEFUL, BUT...
THE WAY IT'S TAKEN FORM, IT'S LIKE "I'M TOTALLY UNNECES-SARY".
I CAN'T REALLY PUT IT WELL, BUT...
...IT MAKES ME HAPPY.

BUT WHY DID YOU STOP ME?
HM?
I WAS GOING TO ASK HER TO HELP ON YOUR BEHALF.
I SEE.
.....
YEAH.
...IT'S JUST AS YOU'RE SAYING.
BUT THAT WOULD GIVE HER SOMETHING NEW TO DWELL ON, AND WE CAN'T GET IN RIO'S WAY, CAN WE?

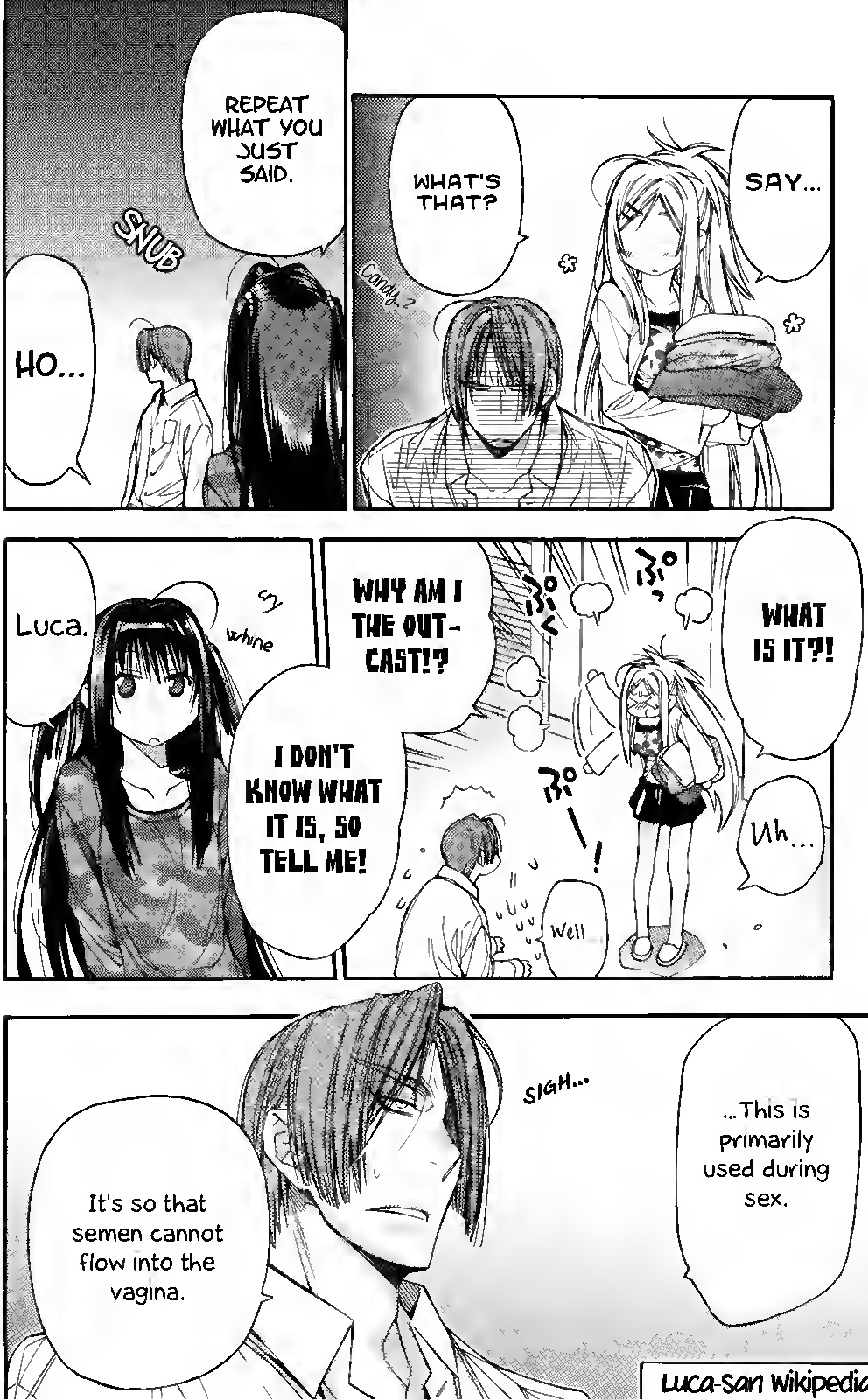

どー——ん...
WHAT'S THIS?
.....

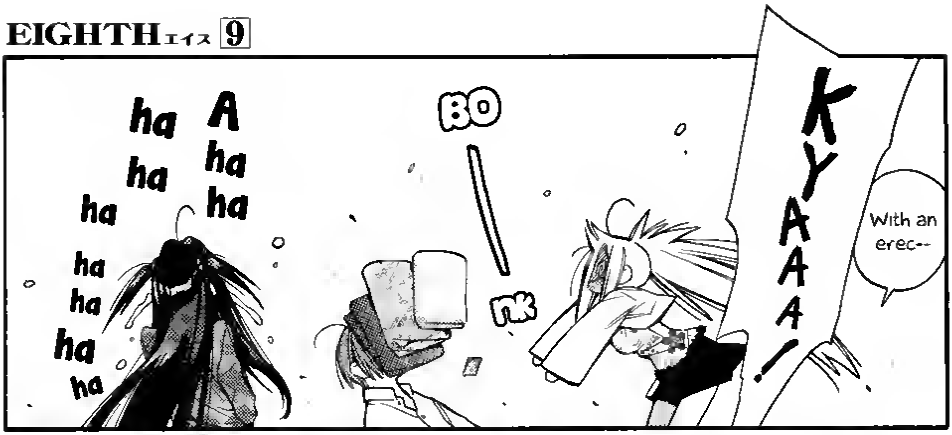
DON'T ACT CASUAL!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M ASKING!
It's a contra-ceptive device men use.
Lecture Time

Eighth's Chief is strange in the head.
I KNOW THAT.
I don't know.
WHY ARE YOU CARRYING THIS AROUND!?
Geez


---WELL?

... THAT'S RIGHT.
CHIEF'S ALWAYS SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT.


REPEAT WHAT YOU JUST SAID.
SNUB
HO...
WHAT'S THAT?
SAY...
Candy...?
Luca.
sy
whine
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, SO TELL ME!
WHY AM I THE OUT-CAST!?
WHAT IS IT?!
Uh...
Well
SIGH...
It's so that semen cannot flow into the vagina.
...This is primarily used during sex.
Luca-san Wikipedia


KYAAA!
With an erec--
BO
nk
A ha ha ha
ha ha ha ha ha

A
ha
ha
ha

MM
LUCA...

メラ"

SFX: UWAAA!
うわぁあ
I CANNOT LIVE WITH CELCIA HATING ME!
WHOA, WHOA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
EH?
カッ
IT'LL BE OKAY!!
CALM DOWN.
PANT
PANT
...SHE-ESH.
YOU SURE ARE AN IDIOT...
.....
...What are you doing?

Talking about her again?
NOTHING SPECIAL...
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW RIO IS TRULY AMAZING.
You keep saying the same things over and over.
Why don't you think about something else for a change?
Wow.
FOR YOU TO TALK LIKE THAT...
.....
What is it that has you so stuck on Eighth?

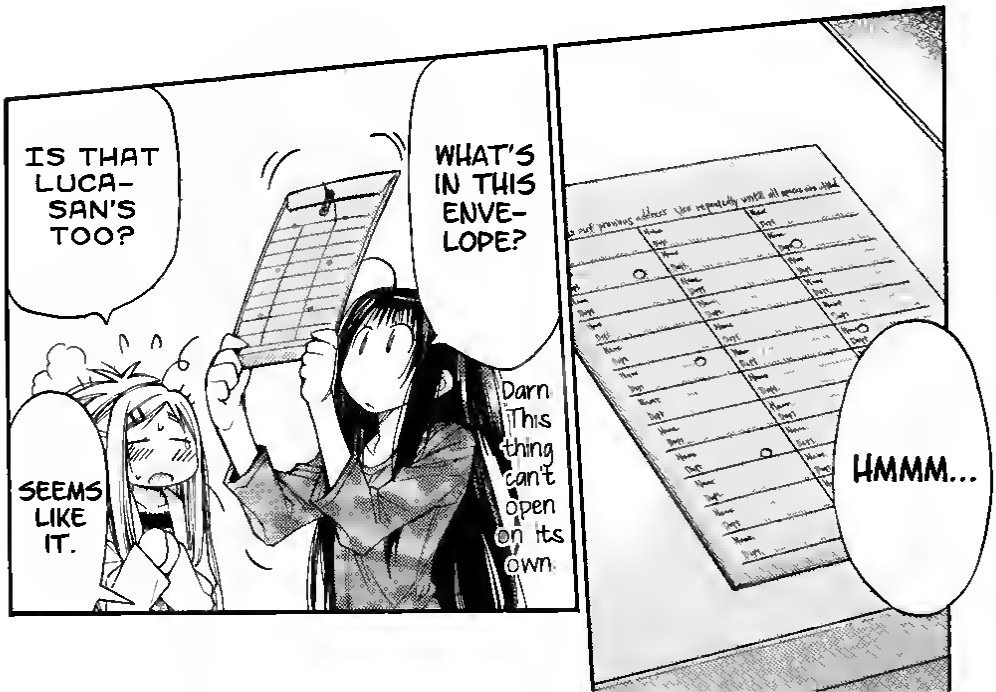
HM?
I don't really get it, but...
you have received ample special training,
something normally unthinkable at your age.
...THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE THE GUARDS TEAM LEADER ISN'T NORMAL.
That doesn't matter.
There are places that need a capable covert operative.
You can go anywhere.
.....
Is it because someone is here?

HUH?
...If Celcia were not here, I would not be here either.
...OH, THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN...
Is it that woman?
BE MORE SPECIFIC.
The woman who brought the documents...
He is not good at this...
OH, MARI-SAN?
...I DO LIKE MARI-SAN,
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
MARI-SAN ISN'T A RESEARCHER.

I WISH MARI-SAN WOULD RECOGNIZE ME,
BUT THAT'S NOT MEANT TO BE.
...I'M NOT SMART ENOUGH.
I CAN'T COMPARE WITH RESEARCHERS.
IF I CAN'T DO IT MYSELF, THEN ALL I CAN DO IS LET HER BE WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
BUT I LIKE ALL OF THE PEOPLE AT EIGHTH,
SO I THOUGHT I COULD AT LEAST PROTECT HER.

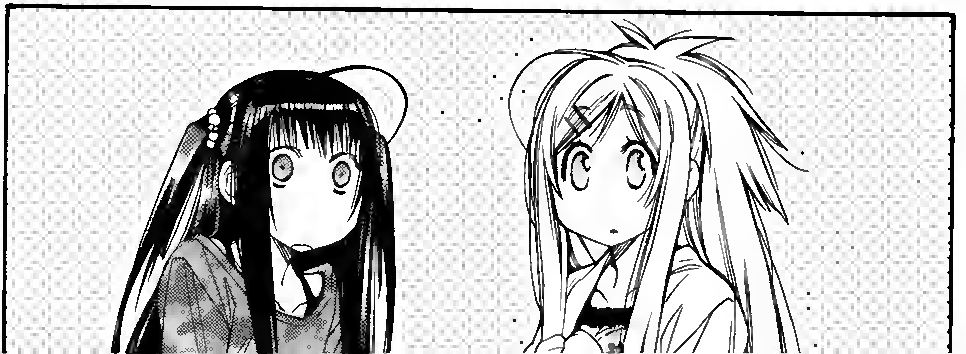
フ…
…
LUCA.
Hmph.
...So, consequently, you saved Celcia.
But to then be criticized for it... It feels wrong.

This is no joke.

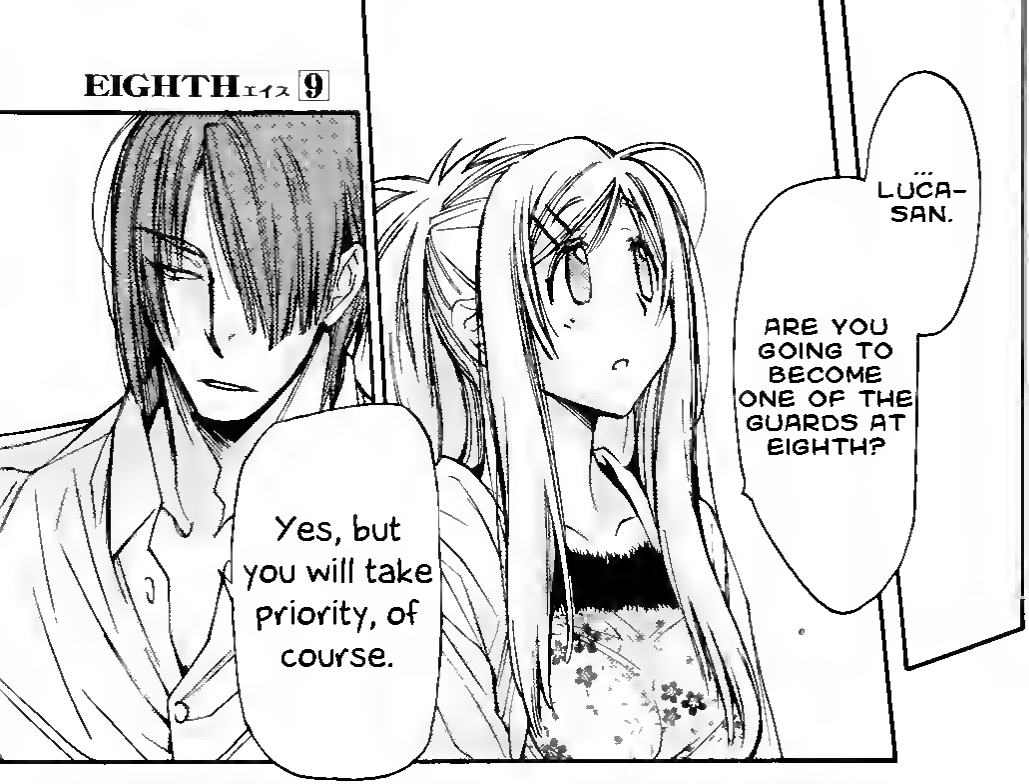

IS THAT LUCA-SAN'S TOO?
WHAT'S IN THIS ENVE-LOPE?
SEEMS LIKE IT.
Darn. This thing can't open on its own.
HMMM...

GRAB
UH...
...No, it isn't.
IT IT'S MORE ECCHI STUFF, I BET

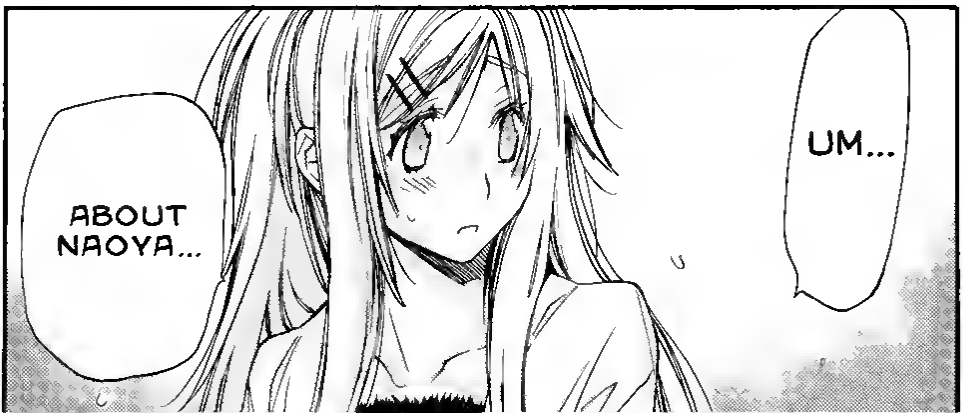
Celcia.
I am signing on with Eighth.



HUH ...?
In order for you to remain at Eighth,
and so that Naoya could come back here, it's necessary.
EH?
WHOA... HOLD ON.
This room will become my room.
In short --
as this will also be your room, you may do as you please.
HOW IS THAT SHORT?!


...
LUCA-SAN.
ARE YOU GOING TO BECOME ONE OF THE GUARDS AT EIGHTH?
Yes, but you will take priority, of course.

ISN'T THAT WRONG?
Then I quit.
Seriously?
THINK ABOUT IT AND TALK IT OVER PROPERLY...


UM...
ABOUT NAOYA...

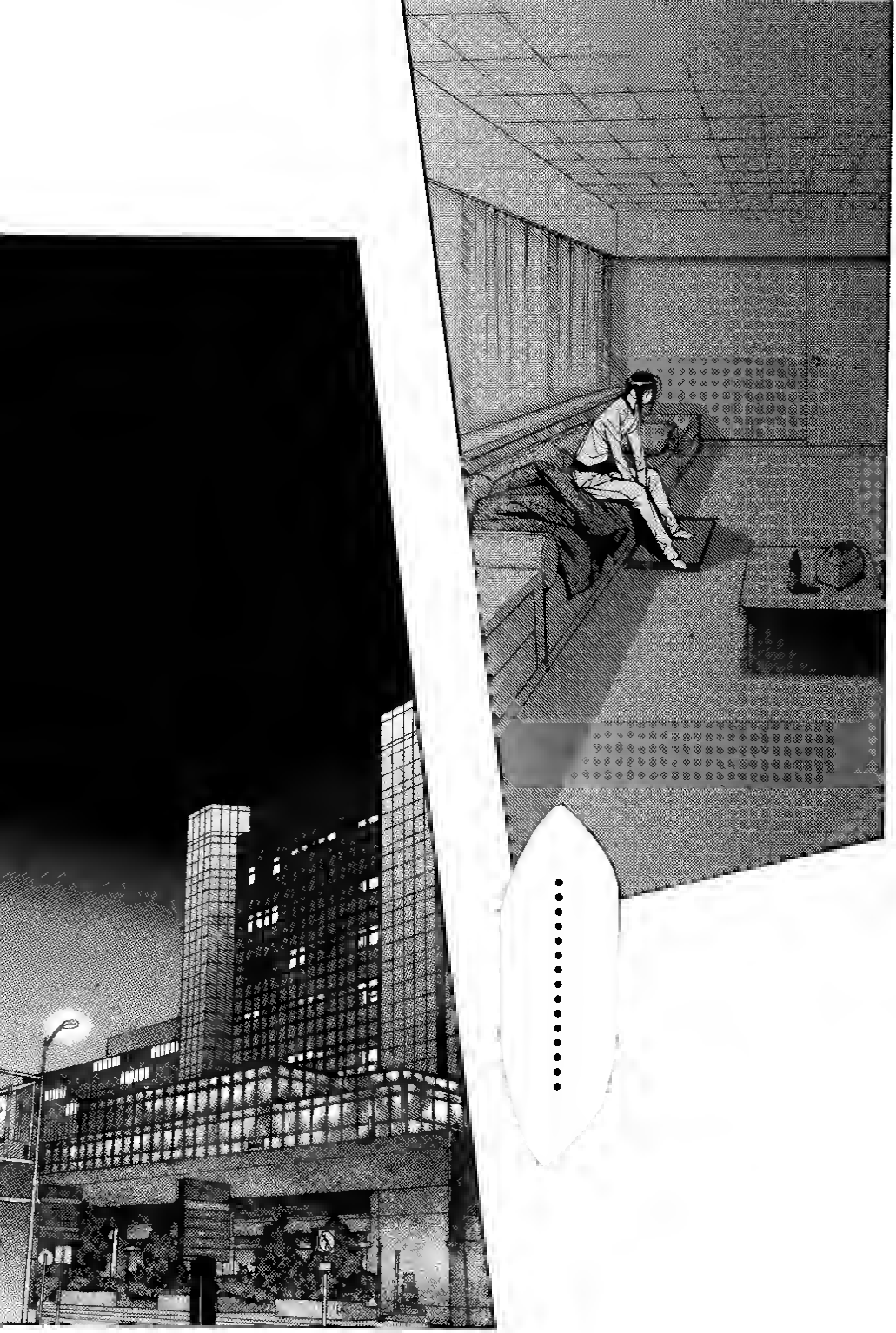
Leave him alone for a while.

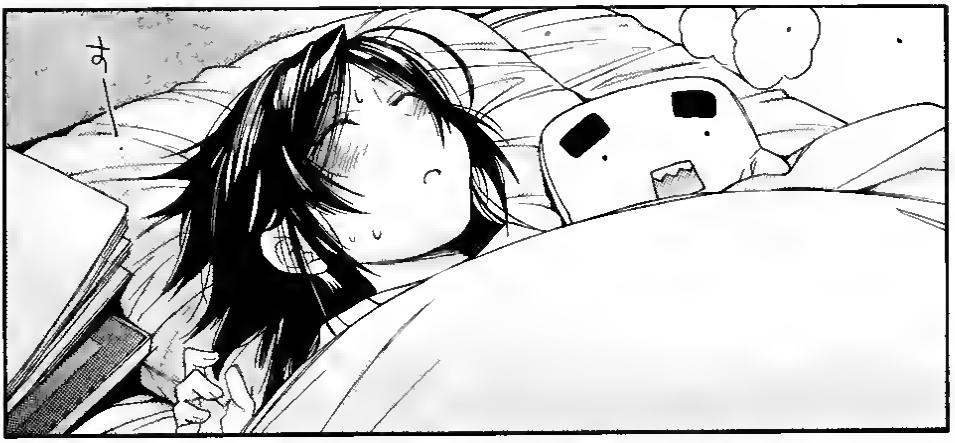
SO THEN...
LUCA, WHO WOULD PROTECT CELCIA UNTIL DEATH, HAS A BAD FEELING.
.....
IT'S LIKE HE'S SAYING IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF I HADN'T PROTECTED HER.
BUT IF I HADN'T GONE TO THE VATICAN, I'M SURE I WOULD HAVE REGRETTED IT FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
I REALLY RESPECT RIO AND THE OTHERS, AS WELL AS THEIR WORK...
BUT NOW THAT THE CHIEF HAS DECIDED CELCIA WILL NOT BE USED, THAT CONVERSATION IS FINISHED.
.....
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

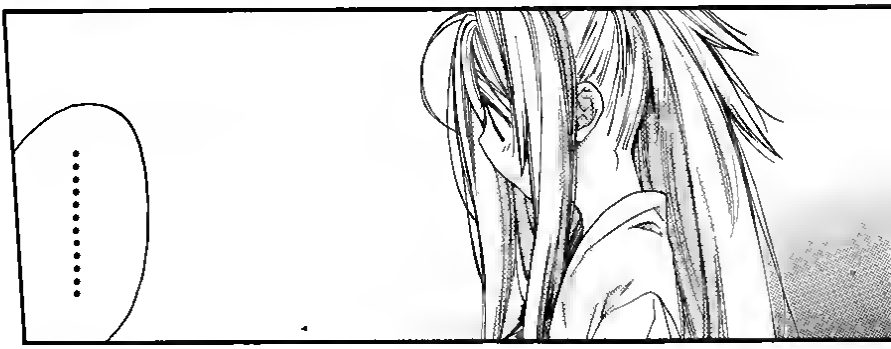
"I WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME THING IN YOUR SHOES."
.....

WHAT IS THE RIGHT THING
FOR ME TO DO NEXT?

THOUGH CHIEF DIDN'T SAY TO ME
"THOUGH IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER NOT TO"...

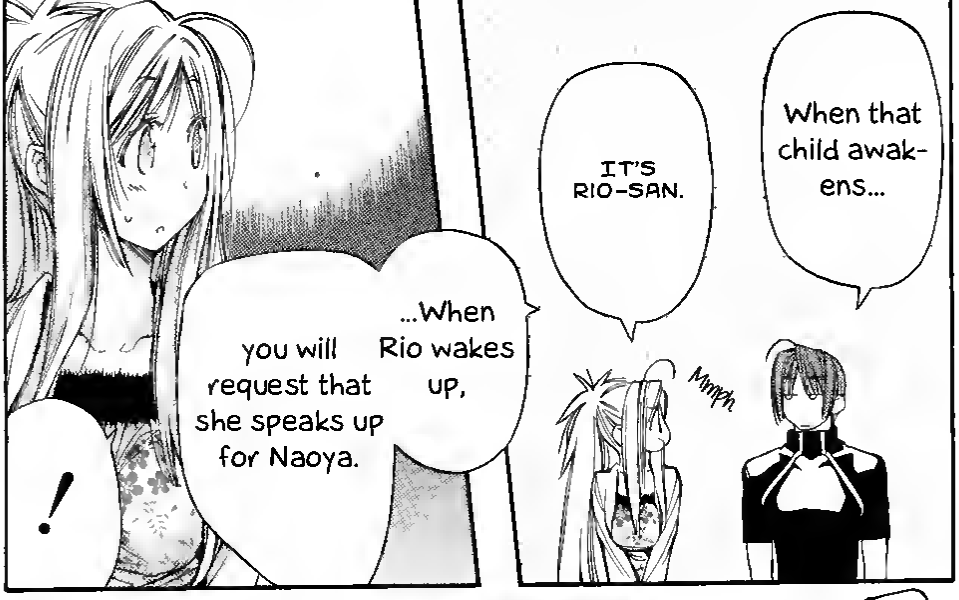




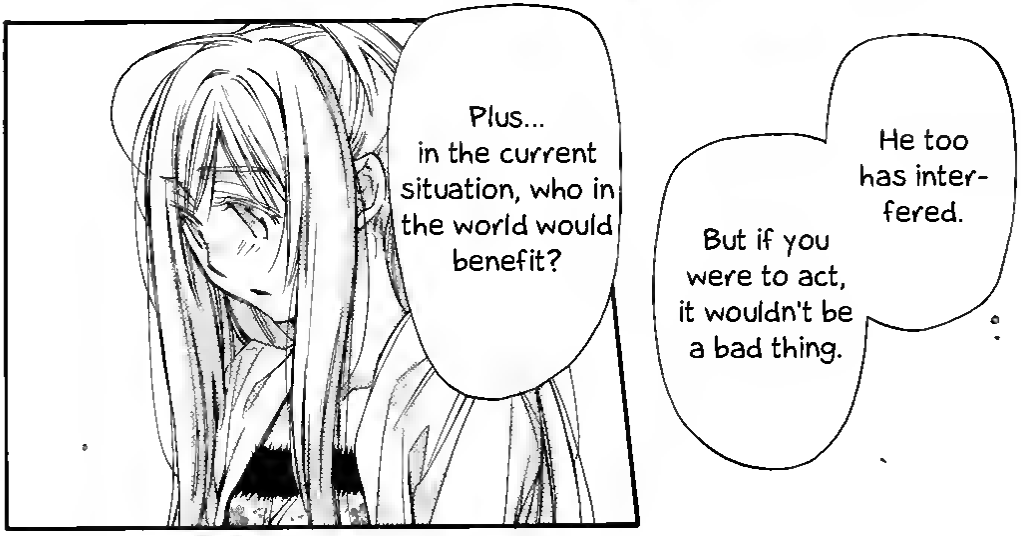

.....

I AM HER AT-TENDANT TONIGHT.
Mmmph
.....
Celcia.
You should get some sleep.
NO.

RIO-SAN IS ALSO AN EIGHTH EM-PLOYEE.
IF YOU JOIN EIGHTH PLEASE GIVE PRI-ORITY
TO PEOPLE OTHER THAN ME.
...LUCA-SAN.
.....
It shall be as you say.
BUT...
WHATEVER YOU DO, IT'D BE NICE IF NAOYA RETURNED TO EIGHTH


When that child awak-ens...
IT'S RIO-SAN.
Mmmph
...When Rio wakes up,
you will request that she speaks up for Naoya.
!

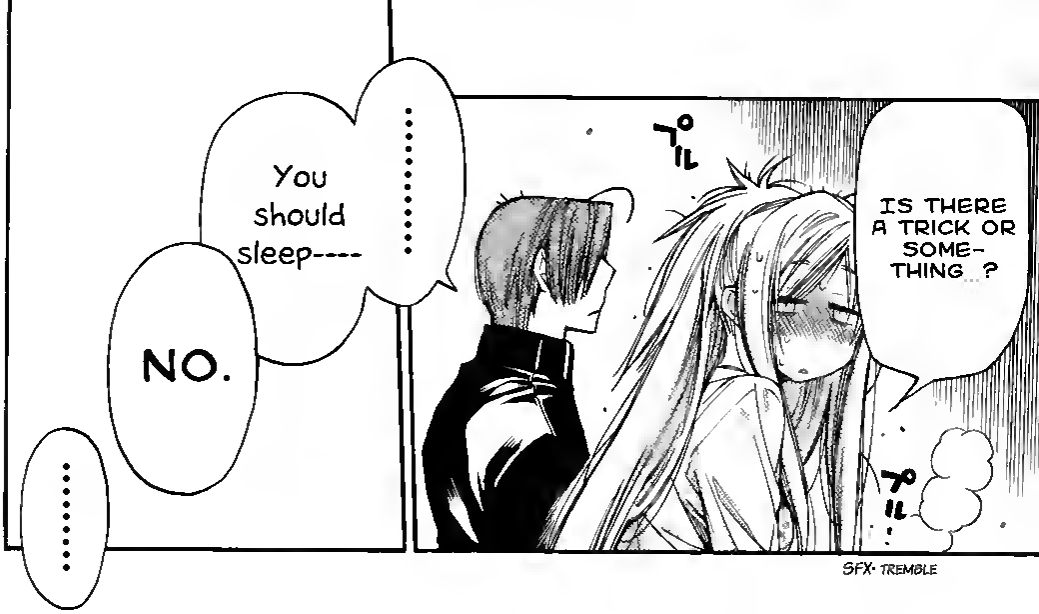
EH...?
BUT... THAT'S...
If Naoya himself were here, he would naturally stop you.


Plus... in the current situation, who in the world would benefit?
He too has inter-fered.
But if you were to act, it wouldn't be a bad thing.

I UNDER-STAND.
.....

UM..
.....

What?
LUCA-SAN, YOU NEVER SLEEP... YOU MUST BE REALLY GOOO AT STAYING AWAKE.


You should sleep----
NO.
IS THERE A TRICK OR SOME-THING...?
SFX· TREMBLE

Stubborn.

That's fine.
Ease your mind---

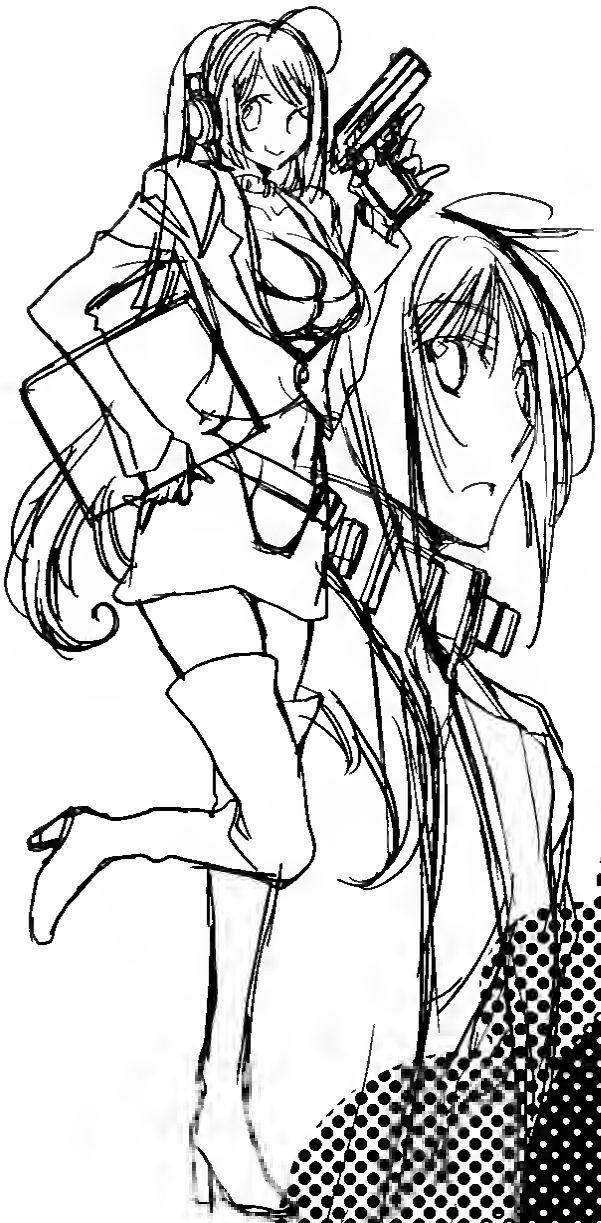
Dr.John
R.TENNOU
Zzz—
nok
nok
nok
!

.....?
ガチャ
...Who is it?
---What could it be at this hour?
A nurse?
SOMEONE VISITING AT THIS HOUR?
---OH MY.

...What's your business?
OH, YES.
IT'S TIME TO DRAW BLOOD.
.....
But it's the middle of the night.
PLEASE EXCUSE ME. IF IT WERE NORMAL, THEN WE WOULD DO IT IN THE MORNING.
IF IT ISN'T DONE AT THIS TIME, TENNOUJI-SAN WON'T BE ABLE TO REST.
The hallway lights--

Why aren't they turned on?
BECAUSE IT WOULD ATTRACT ATTEN-TION.
...Not nearly as much as that loud gun.
It's the same as if it had a silencer; everyone will yell.

AH... HOW INCOMPE-TENT.
AREN'T YOU TALK-ATIVE?
AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE A TACITURN ONE, VATICAN SENTRY.
!
CELCIA IS HERE TOO, ISN'T SHE?



Eighth⑨